AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 19, 34, 57 and 64 as follows and cancel claims 40-42 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 (original) A method of exchanging metals comprising the steps of:

receiving a first user name and a first password from a metal seller;

verifying the first user name and the first password against a database of authorized users;

receiving metal identification information from the metal seller, the metal identification information including a metal type, a metal weight, and a price;

receiving a second user name and a second password from a metal buyer;

verifying the second user name and the second password against the database of authorized users;

determining if a preexisting credit relationship exists between the metal buyer and the metal seller; and

transmitting a metals exchange web page to the metal buyer, the metals exchange web page including the metal identification information and an icon if a preexisting credit relationship exists between the metal buyer and the metal seller.

Claim 2 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting a metals exchange web page to the metal buyer comprises the step of transmitting a positive icon if a preexisting credit relationship exists between the metal buyer and the metal seller.

Claim 3 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting a metals exchange web page to the metal buyer comprises the step of transmitting a negative icon if a preexisting credit relationship does not exist between the metal buyer and the metal seller.

Claim 4 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of determining if a preexisting credit relationship exists between the metal buyer and the metal seller comprises the step of determining if a bilateral credit relationship exists between the metal buyer and the metal seller

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Claim 5 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting a metals exchange web page to the metal buyer comprises the step of making the metal seller anonymous to the metal buyer.

Claim 6 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving credit relationship information from the metal seller, the credit relationship information identifying a metal buyer and a credit threshold.

Claim 7 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

maintaining a current credit balance between the metal buyer and metal seller; and

determining if processing a purchase associated with the metal identification information by the metal buyer would exceed the credit threshold of the preexisting credit relationship between the metal buyer and the metal seller.

Claim 8 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 7, wherein the step of transmitting a metals exchange web page to the metal buyer comprises the step of making the metal seller anonymous to the metal buyer.

Claim 9 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 1, further comprising the steps of receiving a metal chemistry composition from the metal seller and transmitting the metal chemistry composition to the metal buyer.

Claim 10 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting metal exchange transaction information to a plurality of registered users to provide price transparency, the metal exchange transaction information including a plurality of metal lot records, each metal lot record including a lot type, a lot quantity, a lot price, and an exchange date.

Claim 11 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting a metals exchange web page to the metal buyer comprises the step of transmitting a hyperlink, the hyperlink pointing to a metals hedging web page.

Claim 12 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting a metals exchange web page to the metal buyer comprises the step of transmitting a hyperlink, the hyperlink pointing to a logistics web page.

Claim 13 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting a purchase selection for a FAS133 compliant derivative contract.

Claim 14 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of performing a portfolio valuation.

Claim 15 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of performing a mark to market determination.

Claim 16 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a payment guarantee.

Claim 17 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a financing option.

Claim 18 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a weighted average price index based on the plurality of exchanges.

Claim 19 (currently amended) A method of exchanging metals comprising the steps of:

receiving a first user name and a first password from a metal seller;

verifying the first user name and the first password against a database of authorized users;

receiving metal identification information from the first user, the metal identification information including a metal type, a metal weight, a price, and a metal chemistry composition;

receiving a second user name and a second password from a metal buyer;

determining if a preexisting credit relationship exists between the metal buyer and the metal seller;

verifying the second user name and the second password against the database of authorized users; and

transmitting a metals exchange web page to the metal buyer, the metals exchange web page including the metal type, the metal weight, the price, and a hyperlink to a composition web page, the composition web page including the metal chemistry composition.

Claim 20 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 19, further comprising the steps of receiving a request for the composition web page from the metal buyer and transmitting the metal chemistry composition to the metal buyer.

Claim 21 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 20, wherein the step of transmitting the metal chemistry composition to the metal buyer comprises the step of transmitting a percentage of one of silicon, copper, magnesium, nickel, tin, lead, iron, manganese, chromium, zinc, and titanium.

Claim 22 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 20, wherein the step of transmitting the metal chemistry composition to the metal buyer comprises the step of transmitting a percentage of two of silicon, copper, magnesium, nickel, tin, lead, iron, manganese, chromium, zinc, and titanium.

Claim 23 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 20, wherein the step of transmitting the metal chemistry composition to the metal buyer comprises the step of transmitting a range for each of a plurality of elements from the periodic table of elements.

Claim 24 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 19, further comprising the steps of receiving a chemistry evaluation matrix from the metal buyer, the chemistry evaluation matrix including a desired discount associated with a particular metal percentage, and transmitting the chemistry evaluation matrix to the metal seller.

Claim 25 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 19, wherein the step of transmitting a metals exchange web page to the metal buyer comprises the step of making the metal seller anonymous to the metal buyer.

Claim 26 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 19, further comprising the step of transmitting metal exchange transaction information to a plurality of registered users to provide price transparency, the metal exchange transaction information including a plurality of metal lot records, each metal lot record including a lot type, a lot quantity, a lot price, and an exchange date.

Claim 27 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 19, wherein the step of transmitting a metals exchange web page to the metal buyer comprises the step of transmitting a hyperlink to a metals hedging web page.

Claim 28 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 19, wherein the step of transmitting a metals exchange web page to the metal buyer comprises the step of transmitting a hyperlink to a logistics web page.

Claim 29 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 19, further comprising the step of transmitting a purchase selection for a FAS133 compliant derivative contract.

Claim 30 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 19, further comprising the step of performing a portfolio valuation.

Claim 31 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 19, further comprising the step of performing a mark to market determination.

Claim 32 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 19, further comprising the step of providing a payment guarantee.

Claim 33 (original) A method of exchanging metals as defined in claim 0, further comprising the step of providing a financing option.

Claim 34 (currently amended) A method of exchanging FAS133 compliant derivative contracts for metals, the method comprising the steps of:

processing a plurality of exchanges of a plurality metals between a plurality of metal buyers and a plurality of metal sellers;

providing a weighted average price index based on the plurality of exchanges in compliance with FAS133 requirements for market-based pricing; and

facilitating a purchase of a FAS133 compliant derivative contract online including maintaining anonymity of both a buyer associated with the purchase and a seller associated with the purchase,

transmitting an icon indicative of a preexisting bilateral credit arrangement between the buyer and the seller, and

transmitting metal exchange transaction information to a plurality of registered users to provide price transparency, the metal exchange transaction information including a plurality of metal lot records, each metal lot record including a lot type, a lot quantity, a lot price, and an exchange date.

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Claim 35 (original) A method of exchanging FAS133 compliant derivative contracts as defined in claim 34, further comprising the step of providing real time price adjustments online, the real time price adjustments being based on a chemical composition associated with a particular metal from the plurality metals.

Claim 36 (original) A method of exchanging FAS133 compliant derivative contracts as defined in claim 34, wherein the step of processing a plurality of exchanges of a plurality metals between a plurality of metal buyers and a plurality of metal sellers comprises the step of processing an exchange of a platinum group metal.

Claim 37 (original) A method of exchanging FAS133 compliant derivative contracts as defined in claim 34, wherein the step of processing a plurality of exchanges of a plurality metals between a plurality of metal buyers and a plurality of metal sellers comprises the step of receiving a metal chemistry composition from a particular seller in the plurality of metal sellers and transmitting the metal chemistry composition to a particular buyer in the plurality of metal buyers.

Claim 38 (original) A method of exchanging FAS133 compliant derivative contracts as defined in claim 37, wherein the step of receiving a metal chemistry composition comprises the step of receiving a percentage of one of silicon, copper, magnesium, nickel, tin, lead, iron, manganese, chromium, zinc, and titanium.

Claim 39 (original) A method of exchanging FAS133 compliant derivative contracts as defined in claim 37, wherein the step of receiving a metal chemistry composition comprises the step of receiving a range for each of a plurality of elements from the periodic table of elements.

Claim 40 (canceled)

Claim 41 (canceled)

Claim 42 (canceled)

Claim 43 (original) A method of exchanging FAS133 compliant derivative contracts as defined in claim 34, further comprising the step of transmitting a hedging web page.

Claim 44 (original) A method of exchanging FAS133 compliant derivative contracts as defined in claim 34, further comprising the step of transmitting a logistics web page.

Claim 45 (original) A method of exchanging FAS133 compliant derivative contracts as defined in claim 34, further comprising the step of performing a portfolio valuation.

Claim 46 (original) A method of exchanging FAS133 compliant derivative contracts as defined in claim 34, further comprising the step of performing a mark to market determination.

Claim 47 (original) A method of exchanging FAS133 compliant derivative contracts as defined in claim 34, further comprising the step of providing a payment guarantee.

Claim 48 (original) A method of exchanging FAS133 compliant derivative contracts as defined in claim 34, further comprising the step of providing a financing option.

Claim 49 (original) A metals exchange server comprising:

a network transmitter;

a network receiver;

a memory device storing a software program and registered user information; and

a processor operatively coupled to the network transmitter, network receiver, and memory device, the processor being structured to execute the software program, the software program being structured to cause the processor to:

(i)   receive login information from a metal seller and a metal buyer via the network receiver;

(ii)   verify the login information matches the registered user information stored in the memory device;

(iii)   receive metal identification information from the metal seller via the network receiver, the metal identification information including a metal type, a metal weight, and a price;

(iv)   store the metal identification information in the memory device;

(v)   determine if a preexisting credit relationship exists between the metal buyer and the metal seller using the registered user information stored in the memory device; and

(vi)   transmit a metals exchange web page to the metal buyer via the network transmitter, the metals exchange web page including the metal identification information and a positive icon if a preexisting credit relationship exists between the metal buyer and the metal seller, the metals exchange web page including the metal identification information and a negative icon if a preexisting credit relationship does not exist between the metal buyer and the metal seller.

Claim 50 (original) A metals exchange server as defined in claim 49, wherein the software program is further structured to cause the processor to receive a credit limit associated with the metal buyer from the metal seller via the network receiver.

Claim 51 (original) A metals exchange server as defined in claim 50, wherein the software program is further structured to cause the processor to maintain a current credit balance between the metal buyer and metal seller and determine if processing a purchase associated with the metal identification information by the metal buyer would exceed the credit limit.

Claim 52 (original) A metals exchange server as defined in claim 49, wherein the software program is further structured to cause the processor to receive a metal chemistry composition from the metal seller via the network receiver and transmit the metal chemistry composition to the metal buyer via the network transmitter.

Claim 53 (original) A metals exchange server as defined in claim 49, wherein the software program is further structured to cause the processor to transmit metal exchange transaction information to a plurality of registered users via the network transmitter to provide price transparency, the metal exchange transaction information including a plurality of metal lot records, each metal lot record including a lot type, a lot quantity, a lot price, and an exchange date.

Claim 54 (original) A metals exchange server as defined in claim 49, wherein the software program is further structured to cause the processor to transmit a hyperlink to web page via the network transmitter, the web page offering to sell at least one of a metals hedging contract, a logistics contract, and a FAS133 compliant derivative contract.

Claim 55 (original) A metals exchange server as defined in claim 49, wherein the software program is further structured to cause the processor to perform at lest one of a portfolio valuation and a mark to market determination.

Claim 56 (original) A metals exchange server as defined in claim 49, wherein the software program is further structured to cause the processor to transmit at least one of a payment guarantee to the metal seller and a financing option to the metal buyer via the network transmitter.

Claim 57 (currently amended) A metals exchange server comprising:

a network transmitter;

a network receiver;

a memory device storing a software program and registered user information; and

a processor operatively coupled to the network transmitter, network receiver, and memory device, the processor being structured to execute the software program, the software program being structured to cause the processor to:

(i)   receive login information from a metal seller and a metal buyer via the network receiver;

(ii)   verify the login information matches the registered user information stored in the memory device;

(iii)   receive metal identification information from the metal seller via the network receiver, the metal identification information including a metal type, a metal weight, a price, and a metal chemistry composition;

(iv)   store the metal identification information in the memory device; and

(v)   transmit the metal type, the metal weight, the price, and the metal chemistry composition to the metal buyer via the network transmitter;

(vi)   determine if a preexisting credit relationship exists between the metal buyer and the metal seller using the registered user information stored in the memory device; and

(vii)   transmit a metals exchange web page to the metal buyer via the network transmitter, the metals exchange web page including the metal identification information and a positive icon if a preexisting credit relationship exists between the metal buyer and the metal seller, the metals exchange web page including the metal identification information and a negative icon if a preexisting credit relationship does not exist between the metal buyer and the metal seller.

Claim 58 (original) A metals exchange server as defined in claim 57, wherein the software program is further structured to cause the processor to transmit a percentage of one of silicon, copper, magnesium, nickel, tin, lead, iron, manganese, chromium, zinc, and titanium to the metal buyer via the network transmitter.

Claim 59 (original) A metals exchange server as defined in claim 57, wherein the software program is further structured to cause the processor to receive a chemistry evaluation matrix from the metal buyer via the network receiver, the chemistry evaluation matrix including a desired discount associated with a particular metal percentage.

Claim 60 (original) A metals exchange server as defined in claim 57, wherein the software program is further structured to cause the processor to transmit metal exchange transaction information to a plurality of registered users via the network transmitter to provide price transparency, the metal exchange transaction information including a plurality of metal lot records, each metal lot record including a lot type, a lot quantity, a lot price, and an exchange date.

Claim 61 (original) A metals exchange server as defined in claim 57, wherein the software program is further structured to cause the processor to transmit an offer to sell at least one of a metals hedging contract, a logistics contract, and a FAS133 compliant derivative contract.

Claim 62 (original) A metals exchange server as defined in claim 57, wherein the software program is further structured to cause the processor to perform at least one of a portfolio valuation and a mark to market determination.

Claim 63 (original) A metals exchange server as defined in claim 57, wherein the software program is further structured to cause the processor to transmit at least one of a payment guarantee to the metal seller and a financing option to the metal buyer via the network transmitter.

Claim 64 (currently amended) A metals exchange server comprising:
a network transmitter;
a network receiver;
a memory device storing a software program; and
a processor operatively coupled to the network transmitter, network receiver, and memory device, the processor being structured to execute the software program, the software program being structured to cause the processor to:
   (i)   process a plurality of exchanges of a plurality metals between a plurality of metal buyers and a plurality of metal sellers;
   (ii)   provide a weighted average price index based on the plurality of exchanges in compliance with FAS133 requirements for market-based pricing;

(iii)   provide real time price adjustments online, the real time price adjustments being based on a chemical composition associated with a particular metal from the plurality metals; ~~and~~

(iv)   facilitate a purchase of a FAS133 compliant derivative contract online including maintaining anonymity of both a buyer associated with the purchase and a seller associated with the purchase,

(v)   transmitting an icon indicative of a preexisting bilateral credit arrangement between the buyer and the seller, and

(vi)   transmitting metal exchange transaction information to a plurality of registered users to provide price transparency, the metal exchange transaction information including a plurality of metal lot records, each metal lot record including a lot type, a lot quantity, a lot price, and an exchange date.

Claim 65 (original) A metals exchange server as defined in claim 64, wherein the software program is further structured to cause the processor to transmit metal exchange transaction information to a plurality of registered users to provide price transparency, the metal exchange transaction information including a plurality of metal lot records, each metal lot record including a lot type, a lot quantity, a lot price, and an exchange date.

Claim 66 (original) A metals exchange server as defined in claim 64, wherein the software program is further structured to cause the processor to transmit an offer to sell at least one of a metals hedging contract and a logistics contract.

Claim 67 (original) A metals exchange server as defined in claim 64, wherein the software program is further structured to cause the processor to perform at lest one of a portfolio valuation and a mark to market determination.

Claim 68 (original) A metals exchange server as defined in claim 64, wherein the software program is further structured to cause the processor to transmit at least one of a payment guarantee to the metal seller and a financing option to the metal buyer via the network transmitter.